TO: CMH and PIHP Executive Directors
   Chairpersons and Delegates
   Provider Alliance
   Executive Board

FROM: Robert Sheehan, Chief Executive Officer
      Alan Bolter, Associate Director

RE:

- State And National Developments And Resources
  - MHEF announces behavioral health grant opportunity
  - SAMHSA issues final rule on revised federal confidentiality changes
  - SAMHSA seeks input on rules related to contractors in healthcare systems
  - CBO Estimates Dramatic Increases In Uninsured, Premiums with ACA Repeal
  - Save the date notices for a number of high quality conferences and educational opportunities
    - 43rd Annual National Association for Rural Mental Health Conference
    - Michigan Health Policy Forum
    - Health Management Associates 2017 Conference on Trends in Publicly Sponsored Healthcare: The Future of Medicaid is Here: Implications for Payers, Providers and States
  - Consultant to national effort on crisis residential services announces toolkit
  - Americorps announces grants for Mental Health First Aid Corps
  - Legislative Update
    - Governor Delivers His 7th State of the State
  - National Update
    - Congress Passes Budget Bill Creating Pathway for ACA Repeal
New format for Friday Facts highlights its multiple purposes: The Friday Facts is designed to fulfill two distinct needs: to highlight the work and accomplishments of individual MACMHB members and to be a source for MACMHB members to get information gleaned from across the nation and the state on a wide range of topics, without the members having to spend their time identifying and reviewing these numerous information sources (a “one-stop-shop” for information on the national and state developments in our field).

In an effort to ensure that both needs are met, the Friday Facts is now redesigned to have focused segments revolving around state and national developments and resources; the work and accomplishment of MACMHB member organizations; as well as the longstanding Friday Facts sections focusing on state legislative action; national Congressional, executive, and judicial action; and MACMHB committee schedules, membership, minutes, and information.

Highlighting the work of individual MACMHB members: If your organization has an event or accomplishment that you would like highlighted in an upcoming Friday Facts, send the article (200 words or less with the exact wording that you would like to have included in the Friday Facts) that you would like included in an upcoming MACMHB Friday Facts, to Bob Sheehan at rsheehan@macmhb.org. Feel free to provide a website address in the article, if that website can provide Friday Facts readers with additional information on the topic covered in the article (i.e., copy of an article, story, photos, video).

STATE AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS AND RESOURCES

MHEF announces behavioral health grant opportunity

The Michigan Health Endowment Fund (MHEF) recently announced the opening of the 2017 Behavioral Health grant round. The aim of this proactive initiative is to improve access to high quality, person-centered, and integrated mental health and substance use disorder services for Michigan residents. In order to achieve these improvements, MHEF is looking to support strategies and service delivery models that integrate behavioral health services into other health systems; develop innovative approaches through technology; implement community based responses to the opioid epidemic; and implement new strategies to address behavioral health workforce challenges. The full RFP is available at: http://healthendowmentfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/BehavioralHealth2017_RFP_20170111.pdf

For more information on the Michigan Health Endowment Fund, visit the MHEF website at: http://healthendowmentfund.org/

If you have questions, you can contact Becky Cienki at becky@mhealthfund.com
SAMHSA issues final rule on revised federal confidentiality changes

Recently, the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) finalized a rule to improve the exchange of medical information in ways that protect the privacy of people receiving substance use disorder treatment. The changes to Confidentiality of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Patient Records regulations, (42 CFR Part 2) will facilitate health integration and information exchange within new health care models, while continuing to protect the privacy and confidentiality of patients seeking treatment for substance use disorders. The final rule will be published in the Federal Register on January 18th, however it went a display a short time ago here: https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/01/18/2017-00719/confidentiality-of-substance-use-disorder-patient-records

In February 2016, SAMHSA issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) proposing changes to Part 2 to reflect the current health care delivery system, promote health integration and permit appropriate research and data exchange activities. The process of finalizing the rule involved intensive evaluation of public comments on the NPRM from associations, health care providers, health insurers, state and local governments, patients, and people in recovery. This final rule carefully balances the public health benefits of information exchange and continued protection of patient privacy.

Major provisions that have been finalized in today’s Final Rule include:

- SAMHSA will allow any lawful holder of patient identifying information to disclose Part 2 patient identifying information to qualified personnel for purposes of conducting scientific research if the researcher meets certain regulatory requirements. SAMHSA also permits data linkages to enable researchers to link to data sets from data repositories holding Part 2 data if certain regulatory requirements are met. These will enable more needed research on substance use disorders.

- SAMHSA will allow a patient to consent to disclosing their information using a general designation to individual(s) and/or entity(-ies)(e.g., “my treating providers”) in certain circumstances. This change is intended to allow patients to benefit from integrated health care systems. This provision also ensures patient choice, confidentiality, and privacy as patients do not have to agree to such disclosures.

- SAMHSA has added a requirement allowing patients who have agreed to the general disclosure designation, the option to receive a list of entities to whom their information has been disclosed to, if requested.

- SAMHSA has updated and modernized the rule to address both paper and electronic documentation.

SAMHSA seeks input on rules related to contractors in healthcare systems
In addition to the Final Rule discussed above, SAMHSA is also issuing a Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (SNPRM) today, available here: https://s3.amazonaws.com/public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2017-00742.pdf

The SNPRM is being issued to seek public input on some additional clarifications and suggestions, especially regarding the important role of contractors, subcontractors and legal representatives in the health care system with respect to payment and health care operations. The public is invited to comment on the proposed clarifications by using one of the methods outlined in the Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. Please note that to be assured consideration, comments must be received no later than 5 p.m. on February 17, 2017.

**CBO Estimates Dramatic Increases In Uninsured, Premiums with ACA Repeal**

The following is a recent post by the National Council for Behavioral Health, of which MACMHB is a member.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released a report on Tuesday estimating dramatic increases in the number of uninsured people and in monthly premium costs if Congress repeals the ACA with legislation similar to last year’s repeal efforts. The report found that in the first year after repeal, the number of uninsured would increase by 18 million, premiums would increase between 20-25 percent, and that half of the nation’s population would live in an area with no insurer participation in the individual market. CBO’s estimate does not consider coverage or premiums resulting under any transitional or replacement policies that could be passed along with or soon after an ACA repeal bill.

CBO’s projections were based on that legislation that would have eliminated insurance mandate penalties and would have eliminated the ACA’s expansion of Medicaid eligibility and the ACA premium subsidies after a two year delay. In the absence of a replacement plan, key takeaways from CBO’s projections include:

- **Effects on Insurance Coverage** – In the first full plan year following enactment, CBO projects about **18 million people would become uninsured**. This would consist of “about 10 million fewer people with coverage obtained in the non-group market, roughly 5 million fewer people with coverage under Medicaid, and about 3 million fewer people with employment-based coverage.” CBO anticipates this reduction of coverage would stem from a lack of insurer participation in the nongroup market as well as repeal of the individual mandate.
- **Effects on Premiums** – In the first plan year after enactment, CBO estimates that “premiums in the non-group market would be roughly 20 percent to 25 percent higher than under current law once insurers incorporated the effects of H.R. 3762’s changes into their premium pricing.”
- **Long-term Effects on Coverage** – After Medicaid expansion repeal is implemented, CBO estimates that “the number of people without health insurance coverage [would increase] by about **27 million in the year following** the elimination of the Medicaid expansion and marketplace subsidies and by **32 million in 2026**, relative to the number of uninsured people expected under current law.”
- **Effects on Insurer Participation** – If the repeal bill is enacted, CBO estimates that “about half of the nation’s population lives in areas that would
have no insurer participating in the nongroup market in the first year after the repeal of the marketplace subsidies took effect, and that share would continue to increase, extending to about three-quarters of the population by 2026.”

Members of Congress have expressed their commitment to creating an ACA replacement plan that would mitigate some of these effects. However, without details of the replacement plan, advocates remain concerned about potential threats to health care access.

Save the date notices for a number of high quality conferences and educational opportunities

1. 43rd Annual National Association for Rural Mental Health Conference
   Hilton San Diego Resort, San Diego, California
   September 6-8, 2017

The theme for this year’s conference is “Exploring What Works: Caring for the Country”.

NARMH’s Annual Conference is the premier interdisciplinary event for rural families, community members, clinicians, researchers, administrators and policy professionals. The NARMH conference provides great information and networking opportunities regarding all aspects of rural practice, research and policy.

Attend the four concurrent track sessions with interactive workshops and networking opportunities including: The Affordable Care Act impact on rural behavioral health; workforce innovations; peer driven solutions in rural behavioral health; technology and outreach; evidence based practices and programs tooled to fit rural; programs and services that work for rural people; from the bench to the ranch - linking rural research to rural practice; meeting the challenge of serving rural veterans; state psychiatric hospitals - the interface between the hospital and the community; and corrections - the defacto mental health system of the 21st century.

Additional conference information can be found at: www.narmh.org. Continue to check the conference website as we will continue to update the agenda with interesting sessions and topics. Conference registration will open March 15.

The hotel room block at the Hilton San Diego Resort is already available to reserve and the deadline to receive the reduced room block sleeping room rate of $125 is Tuesday, August 8.

2. Michigan Health Policy Forum
   East Lansing, Michigan
   Monday, May 1, 2017.

The next Michigan Health Policy Forum (of which MACMHB is a Board member) will be held on Monday, May 1, 2017. The topic will be New Directions in Health Policy: the First 100 days of the Trump Administration.

The Forum’s keynote speaker will be Dr. Gail Wilensky, Senior Fellow at Project HOPE and former senior health and welfare adviser to President George H.W. Bush.
As the Trump Administration begins to coalesce, there are rumors, discussions and campaign promises about changes that will be made in our healthcare delivery/financing systems. The President elect has promised to repeal and potentially replace the Affordable Care Act and members of Congress have promised to "privatize" Medicare and convert Medicaid to a block grant program. The Michigan Health Policy Forum will review the first 100 days of the Trump Administration, distinguish the rumors from the facts, and explore the impact that these actions will have on Michigan.

3. Health Management Associates
2017 Conference on Trends in Publicly Sponsored Healthcare:
The Future of Medicaid is Here: Implications for Payers, Providers and States
Chicago, Illinois
Sept. 11-12, 2017

Health Management Associates (HMA) is proud to announce its 2nd conference on Trends in Publicly Sponsored Healthcare, Sept. 11-12, 2017 in Chicago. The theme of this year's event is The Future of Medicaid is Here: Implications for Payers, Providers and States and features as keynote speakers some of the nation's most innovative healthcare leaders.

This is the second conference HMA has presented on trends in publicly sponsored healthcare. Our inaugural event last year in Chicago brought together 250 executives from health plans, providers, state and federal government, community-based organizations and others serving Medicaid and other vulnerable populations. It was a collaborative, high-level event featuring more than 30 speakers and representing the interests of a broad-based constituency of healthcare leaders.

This year's meeting promises to be even better, with a sharp focus on the challenges and opportunities for organizations serving Medicaid and other vulnerable populations given the priorities of the incoming Trump Administration. Additional details, including a complete agenda, will be available in the weeks ahead. Questions can be directed to Carl Mercurio, cmcurrio@healthmanagement.com, (212) 575-5929.

Consultant to national effort on crisis residential services announces toolkit

TBD Solutions, a Michigan based consulting firm with longstanding partnerships with many MACMHB members, is coordinating a national workgroup to develop a best practices toolkit for the provision of Crisis Residential Services. This year-long project started in December 2016 and currently includes 70 of the approximately 300 crisis residential providers from across the country. Participants engage in monthly conference calls and content surveys, and the final product will be a free electronic toolkit available for download.

Interested participants can email Travis Atkinson at travisa@tbdsolutions.com.”
Americorps announces grants for Mental Health First Aid Corps

The Mental Health First Aid Corps is accepting applications from agencies interested in hosting a full-time AmeriCorps member for the 2017 program year.

Application deadline - March 31, 2017
Notice of Acceptance – April 14, 2017
AmeriCorps Member Service Year
Start Date – Sept/Oct 2017

The host site application is available at: http://health360.org/mhfac_app.html

The Mental Health First Aid Corps is an innovative AmeriCorps Program that supports implementation of Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) in communities across the nation. AmeriCorps members, trained as MHFA instructors, are placed at host sites focusing their service year implementing MHFA.

Since its inception, MHFA Corps AmeriCorps members have had tremendous impact at their host site agencies. That impact information can be reviewed at: http://health360.org/mental-health-ac.html

An AmeriCorps member improves your organization’s capacity to address mental health needs in your community through service. A full-time AmeriCorps member serving 40 hours per week for 10 months at your agency will:

1. implement MHFA certification classes;
2. build capacity to address community mental health care needs; and
3. raise funds to support mental health focused service activities.

To learn more please join one of the following conference calls:

Wednesday, February 1, 2017 - 11 to 12 p.m. Eastern
Tuesday, February 14, 2017 - 2 to 3 p.m. Eastern
Thursday, March 2, 2017 - 11 to 12 p.m. Eastern
Wednesday, March 15, 2017 - 2 to 3 p.m. Eastern

Call in Number: 712-775-7031
Meeting ID: 468 634 766

Or, you can contact Tricia directly at: harrity@health360.org or 203-758-1110 x11

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
Governor Delivers His 7th State of the State

Tuesday, Governor Rick Snyder delivered his 7th State of the State speech. The Governor began his speech by touting the recent economic development growth announced in Michigan recently.

The Governor reiterated his support and success of the Healthy Michigan Plan (Medicaid expansion). It was announced earlier in the week that the Governor will be in Washington DC urging members of Congress to maintain Medicaid expansion.

The Governor announced a crowd sourcing challenge urging creative minds to find a solution to the looming Asian carp crisis in the Great Lakes. The “vocational village” program in the Ionia prison aimed at giving inmates job skills will be expanded to the Jackson prison and the Huron Valley women’s correctional facility.

The 21st Century Infrastructure Commission recommendations were highlighted, focusing on funding and the asset management component of the commission’s recommendations.

“Place making” was previewed as an item the Governor will recommend for additional resources in the upcoming budget.

The Governor applauded the legislature for adopting autonomous vehicle regulations and touted “Planet M,” which is the overall brand for automotive mobility.

Michigan’s population should again grow above 10 million people by the year 2020 – we are only 70,000 shy at this point.

The full transcript of the speech can be found here: http://www.michigan.gov/snyder/0,4668,7-277-74857_78766-401909--,00.html

NATIONAL UPDATE

Congress Passes Budget Bill Creating Pathway for ACA Repeal

Congress took their first step toward repealing the Affordable Care Act (ACA) last week, as both chambers passed a budget resolution that gives Congress instructions to start developing an ACA repeal package. The Senate passed the resolution first, followed by the House, and both votes split primarily along party lines. The budget resolution will permit the Congressional majority to use reconciliation, a filibuster-proof tool that would allow repeal legislation to pass with simple majorities in the House and Senate.

It is important to note that last week’s vote is just the start of what is expected to be a months-long debate on health care reform. Members of Congress have proposed multiple ACA replacement strategies, including: Speaker Paul Ryan’s “A Better Way”, separate bills from Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA), and any potential replacement plan put forward by the new Trump administration. With an apparent lack of consensus on the details of ACA replacement, advocates in the
behavioral health community have the time and opportunity to influence this process and potentially delay or stop cuts to behavioral health services.

Governors Join Discussion on Health Care Repeal and Replace

On Thursday, Republican and Democratic governors and lieutenant governors from across the country joined the debate on plans to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. Republican state leaders met in a closed-door meeting with Congressional leadership to discuss potential changes to the Medicaid program including the ACA’s Medicaid expansion, program sustainability and avenues to greater flexibility. Meanwhile, Democratic governors on Thursday recirculated a letter to congressional leaders opposing the repeal of ACA provisions without a replacement.

There has been growing public support among Republicans for maintaining portions of the ACA including provisions related to Medicaid expansion. During an interview earlier this week, House Energy and Commerce health subcommittee Chairman Michael Burgess (R-TX) shared that Republicans are considering allowing states to keep Medicaid expansion as a part of an ACA replacement plan. Late last year, House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy wrote to Republican governors asking for their input on a GOP health care reform law. This week’s in-person meeting is a continuation of that dialogue, the results of which will be monitored closely and reported on by the National Council.


MACMHB committee schedules, membership, minutes, and information

The meeting schedules, membership list, minutes of recent committee meetings and additional committee-related information can be found at the “Committees“ tab on the MACMHB website: https://macmhb.org/

Have a Great Weekend!